



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on December 4, 2013, at the Cross State Office Building, Augusta, Maine. The following members were present: Chair Nancy Perkins; Vice Chair Peter Geiger; Martha Harris; Jana Lapoint; Heidi Sampson; William Beardsley; Nichi Farnham; and Kristin Bishop.

Excused: Steven Pound and Ande Smith

Also present were: Scott Brown, Director of School Facilities; Ann Pinnette, School Facilities Education Specialist; Guest, Alyssa Wardwell; and Mary Becker, Secretary Associate, State Board of Education

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Nancy Perkins called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

VISION STATEMENT:

Read by Chair, Nancy Perkins: The Vision of the State Board is to prepare Maine public school graduates with the skills and knowledge needed to be college, career, citizenship and life ready.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Peter Geiger, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the November 13, 2013 minutes as amended.

CONSENT AGENDA:

RECEIPT OF THE TEAM REPORT OF FINDINGS CONCERNING THE MAINE COLLEGE OF ART (MECA) REVIEW FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (MAT) DEGREE-ART EDUCATION K-12

MOVED by Heidi Sampson, seconded by Martha Harris, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the Consent Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

FEDERAL QUALIFIED ZONE ACADEMY BOND PROGRAM

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Department of Education coordinates the Federal Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) program. QZABs are bonds issued by state or local governments which the Federal government subsidizes by providing tax credits to bondholders. Maine has a 2011

QZAB allocation balance of \$1,443,000 available for allocation to school units. This federal allocation will expire December 31, 2013 if not used.

In the current calendar year, one school administrative unit, RSU 40/SAD 40, submitted QZAB applications to the Department requesting bonding authority. The Department has completed its review of the RSU 40/SAD 40 applications and verified that RSU 40/SAD 40 and its proposed projects meet the QZAB eligibility criteria. These criteria include having a 35% free and reduced lunch rate, receiving a private contribution worth 10% of the bond proceeds, and using bond proceeds for rehabilitation or repair of school buildings, purchasing equipment, developing course materials, and/or training teachers and other school personnel.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The Construction Committee considered this exhibit at its December 2, 2013 meeting and voted to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the QZAB applications for projects in RSU 40/SAD 40 and authorize issuance of QZABs by RSU 40/SAD 40 for up to \$1,443,000 from the 2011 federal allocation.

COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education approve the QZAB applications for projects in RSU 40/SAD 40 and authorize issuance of QZABs by RSU 40/SAD 40 for up to \$1,443,000 from the 2011 federal allocation.

MOVED by Martha Harris, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the QZAB applications for projects in RSU 40/SAD 40 and authorize issuance of QZABs by RSU 40/SAD 40 for up to \$1,443,000 from the 2011 federal allocation.

REQUEST FROM UNIVERSITY OF MAINE FORT KENT FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT STATE PROGRAM APPROVAL OF ITS EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS THROUGH MARCH 2014.

BACKGROUND: The State Board approved the University of Maine Fort Kent's Educator Preparation Program in June of 2012, but only until December 31, 2013. In the June 2012 review process there were some concerns raised about the quality of the program.

Dr. Bruno Hicks at UMFK recently contacted the Maine DOE inquiring about the next steps of the approval process. The University of Maine at Fort Kent has prepared a report describing the actions that UMFK has taken to address the concerns about the teacher preparation program. Due to the lack of time necessary to add a review of the UMFK report to the State Board of Education agenda for the December 4, 2013 meeting, the University of Maine Fort Kent is requesting that the State Board extend the current approval of the University of Maine Fort Kent Teacher Education Program through March 2014 until the State Board can review the UMFK report at the January 2014 meeting.

Dr. Bruno Hicks will forward the UMFK report to Mary Becker, Secretary for the State Board of Education.

State Board Rule Chapter 114, Part 3.1 (e) reads as follows:

Requests for extensions for existing approval, due to extraordinary circumstances, may be granted at the discretion of the State Board of Education; however, such extensions shall not extend the date when the subsequent approval is due. The Board will only consider such requests in emergency situations.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education act favorably upon the request from the University of Maine at Fort Kent Teacher Preparation program and extend

the current program approval for its educator preparation program for four months through March, 2014 until the report from the University of Maine at Fort Kent can be reviewed by the State Board of Education.

MOVED by William Beardsley, seconded by Martha Harris, and unanimously voted by those present to act favorably upon the request from the University of Maine at Fort Kent Teacher Preparation program and extend the current program approval for its educator preparation program for four months through March, 2014 until the report from the University of Maine at Fort Kent can be reviewed by the State Board of Education.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Construction Committee

The Construction Committee met on December 2 and reviewed the information on QZAB that was presented and voted on today by the Board. The committee is hoping to move forward with major school construction projects.

Certification and Higher Education

The Certification and Higher Education Committee met on November 25. In attendance were committee members Bill Beardsley, Nichi Farnham, and Nancy Perkins. Mark Cyr, DOE Certification Coordinator, Assistant Superintendent Andy McAuliffe, and Wendy Gaal from Reading Matters to Maine.

Mark reviewed the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) process for the Chapter 115 revisions. The public hearing will be held in room 500 on December 19, from 1 to 3 pm. Nichi Farnham, Jana Lapoint and Bill Beardsley will be attending the hearing and Nichi Farnham will be the chair. In 2014, the Committee will be focusing on chapter 118 and will develop a plan of action at the January 27th committee meeting. The committee will not be meeting in December of 2013.

Career and Technical Education

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee did not meet in December. Steve Pound, Chair of the Committee submitted a written report from Meg Harvey, CTE State Director at the Maine Department of Education.

CTE report for the State Board of Education December 2013

The CTE team has been working on many initiatives including:

- Provided the State Board and the MDOE Commissioners office GEA reports.
- Completed school reviews to Presque Isle Regional Career and Technical Center and Hancock County Technical Center.
- Reviewed and approved Carl D. Perkins grants. Only 2 grants are left to be fully approved.
- Data being compiled and narrative prepared for the Consolidated Annual Report for Perkins. We will forward this report to the CTE subcommittee as soon as it is completed.
- Hired an Educational Specialist to work with the CTE centers on CTE standards and assessments- Travis Wood.

- Early College letters of intent were received. We will have 12 CTE schools that will apply for the funding; 5 for operational grants and 7 for planning grants.
- Attended the America Works workshop presented by Garret Groves from National Governors Association for the State Workforce Investment Board.
- Worked on the new CTE website which should be ready for public viewing very soon.
- Convened initial consultation with the Southern Regional Educational Board, an organization which provides exceptional professional development workshops and seminars for education. We hope to offer this opportunity to the Maine CTE field. Vermont and New Hampshire are also looking into this opportunity so we may be able to offer some tri-state opportunities. <http://www.sreb.org/>
- Met with MDOE staff with responsibilities concerning Maine's academic standards to start the initial conversations to ensure that students will still have access to CTE programs. We had conversations about CTE being considered as a viable pathway to meet the standards requirements and ensuring students have the time requirements to attend CTE. We will include the State Board in this discussion when we have more of a plan as to how we will proceed. Currently doing research to determine which state may have a plan that would work for Maine.
- In the process of reviewing the proposed changes to the teacher certification rule proposed for CTE certification <http://mainedoenews.net/2013/11/20/notice-of-proposed-rule-changes-to-chapter-115/>
- Working on meeting with the congressional delegation to discuss the upcoming Perkins reauthorization
- Meeting held with MDOE finance chief and CTE directors to discuss the possible change in the state subsidy funding to CTE schools.

Note: Jana Lapoint joined the meeting at 1:34 pm.

STUDENT TRANSFER APPEAL:

MOVED by Martha Harris, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and voted six in favor (Nichi Farnham, Peter Geiger, Martha Harris, Jana Lapoint, Nancy Perkins, and Steven Pound), with two members opposed (William Beardsley and Heidi Sampson) that the State Board uphold the denial by Acting Commissioner Rier dated October 30, 2013 of the student transfer from RSU#1 to RSU#2.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Nancy Perkins:

- On November 14, she attended an open house and dedication of the Bjorn Auditorium at the Mt. Blue High School Campus in Farmington. The hour tour of the three floor complex showed an incredible array of opportunity for the students who attend. This was a long journey of twelve years of multiple towns working together to provide an integrated vocational academic opportunity. Nancy shared with Board members a copy of the floor plan and a brief description of the overwhelming tour.

- On November 15, she participated in the celebration of recognizing the 2014 Maine Teacher of the Year, Karen MacDonald. Karen teaches at King Middle School in Portland.
- On November 22, she attended the 14th Annual Craft Championship at the Augusta Civic Center. It is a hands-on opportunity for students to learn the advantages of certain trades.
- On November 25, the Certification Committee met.
- On December 3, she and Peter Geiger met with Governor LePage. The topics of discussion were: importance of keeping students in the fore front of all of our work in education, the importance of high standards for all students, and the importance of vocational education in our educational system.
- She will be attending a Picus meeting on Tuesday, December 10. Martha and Peter have both been involved with this.
- She requested that all Board members notify her or Peter if they have any questions or concerns regarding any bills that are before the legislature.
- Sometime in January the State Board will be asked to do a presentation to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee on the Government Evaluation Act. A copy of the report has been given to all Committee members, Dr. Phil McCarthy and to Tom Desjardin, Senior Policy Advisor for Governor LePage.
- She received a letter regarding a survey about technology in the schools.

Vice Chair, Peter Geiger:

- He also attended an open house and dedication of the Bjorn Auditorium at the Mt. Blue High School Campus in Farmington on November 14.
- On November 15, he attended and participated in the celebration of recognizing the 2014 Maine Teacher of the Year, Karen McDonald. He would like to invite Karen McDonald to a board meeting, perhaps the February meeting.
- He attended the Construction Committee meeting on December 2.
- He and Nancy met with Governor LePage on December 3.
- He attended and participated in the LD 944 unfunded mandated review committee meeting. It is the first committee meeting to review laws over the past years. They are looking at laws that may be obsolete. Some rules on the books are no longer effective and may need to be done away with. The committee will meet several times throughout December and January. He will keep the Board informed.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Martha Harris:

- She attended the Picus Essential Programs and Services (EPS) Committee meeting on November 15.
- Frankfurt has joined their school district.
- She attended the Construction Committee meeting on December 2.
- She has been doing local events including welcoming the State Junior Classical League to Hampden Academy's beautiful new performing arts center on November 22.
- Hampden Academy held a musical for the first time in 19 years, "Guys and Dolls".
- She is reading Robert Marzano's book "The Art and Science of Teaching" and she would highly recommend it to others.

Kristin Bishop: (written report)

- On November 26, she had the privilege of partaking in Madison's Annual Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner. The dinner is a community event that serves hundreds of elderly and their families a warm Thanksgiving meal. The event brings the school and local community together while also teaching students the value of civic engagement.
- On November 22, she attended the 14th Annual Craft Championship and the Policy Makers Breakfast held at the Augusta Civic Center. She had the privilege and honor of hearing the Keynote speaker, Senator Angus King, at the breakfast that morning, and spent the remainder of the morning traveling to the many exhibits and stations set up for the students at the event. Students were provided with so many rewarding opportunities and ceased them with ambitious attitudes. It was a great privilege to talk to students at the event, college recruiters, and UMO students who were also there to meet with any interested students at the event. Interview booths were set up for students to practice and learn interview skills, and every company/exhibit there demonstrated the multitudes of ways students could turn their passions into careers. She was greatly honored to be able to attend the event to gain more information for her CTE research efforts. She will be attending her first Common Vision meeting for SCTC on the 11th and hopes to bring the information she learned from this event to this role.
- She joined the Kennebec Valley Business Education League that her school is involved with and placed in the first meet.
- She is completing her presentation for the 3rd Annual Maine Youth Leadership Summit where she has the privilege of being a speaker. The conference will host over three hundred youth from around the state, ages middle through high school.

Jana Lapoint:

- She has been busy with the Charter School Commission and gave an update to the Board during the morning workshop session.

William Beardsley:

- He attended the Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting on November 25.
- He attended Heidi's speech on Common Core in Belfast a couple weeks ago and it was very interesting.

Nichi Farnham:

- Her son, a freshman, that needed to go through the concussion protocol has completed it and is back to playing hockey.

Heidi Sampson:

- On November 22, she went to see a JFK presentation by a homeschooled student. He is a freshman and he made a connection with veterans at the World War II workshop. He is interning with two historians that do a lot of work with the Kennebunk Historical Society. Every month they have a museum piece and they have old restored cars and art work. He did his first ever public speech/presentation and it was a fantastic presentation.
- She attended a Charter School Commission meeting on December 3.

KING MIDDLE SCHOOL VIDEO

Nancy shared a video with the Board – “Maine School Engages Kids with Relevant Problem Solving Challenges”. Summary: Special correspondent John Tulenko of Learning Matters reports on a public middle school in Portland (King Middle School) that is taking a different approach to teaching students. Teachers have swapped traditional curriculum for an unusually comprehensive science curriculum that emphasizes problem-solving, with a little help from some robots. Link to the video: http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/education/jan-june13/learning_0506.html

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Submit travel and expense account vouchers to Mary at the end of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

The December 4, 2013 State Board of Education meeting adjourned at 2:23 PM.